

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair forbid its ABC affiliates from airing Ted Koppel's tribute to those who have died in Iraq because they felt it was politically motivated but they seem to have no problem airing a documentary that attacks Senator John Kerry. There is quite clearly a double standard here.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, Sinclair is using our airwaves to pursue its own agenda. According to USA Today, "many believe Sinclair's decision shows how much the company has riding on the election." This does not serve the public interest nor does it serve democracy. We need programming that provides facts about the issues to give citizens the information they need to participate fully in our democracy not the opinions of those who own the media.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I feel that Sinclair's decision is a serious abuse of the privilege to use public airwaves and urge you to put a stop to it.

Thank you.